

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 1046

Washington, D. C.

July 21, 1945

BILL CREATING 65-CENTS MINIMUM WAGE BY AMENDMENT TO FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT INTRODUCED IN SENATE

Legislation Drafted by Senator Pepper
Is Jointly Sponsored by Nine
Other Senators

Important amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act are proposed in a bill (S. 1282) introduced on July 18 by Senator Mead on behalf of himself and Senators Pepper, Kilgore, Myers, Wagner, Thomas, Chavez, Magnuson, Guffey and Murray. Identical bills have also been introduced in the House.

The bill would raise the minimum wage rate to 65 cents an hour with provision for increasing the rate annually by 5 cents until it reaches 75 cents; eliminate the 14-week unlimited hours exemption of food processing industries provided in Section 7(c), and also the exemption for fish processors as provided in Section 13(a)(5) of the present law. The 14-week limited hour exemption for seasonal industries provided in Section 7(b)(3) is retained.

To the declaration of policy as stated in Section 2(b) is added the new purpose "to provide for the maintenance of reasonable wage differentials between interrelated job classifications in such industries." In the bill the term "job classification" is defined to mean those occupations within an industry or subdivision thereof requiring a similar degree of training, experience and skill. Unskilled job classification is defined to mean a job classification which does not require previous training or experience.

These new provisions would, in effect, give the Wage and Hour Administrator power to establish minimum rates for job classifications higher than unskilled labor, which would receive initially a minimum rate of 65 cents per hour.

The Senate bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and it is presumed that no further action will be taken until Congress returns on October 8 from its projected recess following completion of Senate action on the United Nations Charter.

A detailed analysis of the bill will be presented in a later issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

A few days earlier a Senate subcommittee, headed by Senator Pepper, had recommended that the War Labor

Board be authorized to increase wages to a 65-cents-an-hour minimum to correct sub-standard conditions of living. As contrasted with the provisions of S. 12, which would amend permanent law, the recommendations of the subcommittee would set the 65-cents minimum wage only during the Board's tenure of life during and after the war.

Senator Pepper's subcommittee recommended that the Senate Labor and Education Committee report favorably a Senate concurrent resolution that "It is the sense of Congress that a straight time hourly rate of 65 cents is the minimum below which the National War Labor Board and National Mediation Board shall consider any wage rate sub-standard." The committee further recommended that:

1. The WLB adopt a definite policy concerning substandard wages, using the cost of living budget approach as its criterion in determining what wage rate is required to eliminate substandards of living.

2. The WLB apply its policy uniformly in voluntary and dispute cases. Where wages are substandard there is

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Canners' Sugar Requests

Many canners face undue delays in obtaining sugar for their 1945 packs because they fail to supply sufficient information concerning their needs when applying to the U. S. Department of Agriculture or the Office of Price Administration for assistance, officials of both agencies advised the Association this week. To expedite the handling of requests for sugar or increased allotments of sugar, canners are asked to supply the following information, if possible, when applying:

- (1) Name and address of supplier (broker, distributor, or wholesaler), (2) name and address of refiner or importer from whom supplier obtains sugar, (3) number of ration points canner has or needs to obtain the sugar required, (4) total quantity of sugar needed, (5) the reason why the sugar is needed, (6) the exact period of time when the sugar will be needed, and (7) the amount of time left for delivery.

OPA to Make Profits Study of Canning Industry's 1944 Operations; Study Will Not Delay Issuance of or Affect 1945 Maximum Prices

During the past few weeks a number of canners have received letters from George V. Rountree, head of the Processed Fruits and Vegetables Section, Food Price Division of Office of Price Administration, stating that the pricing policy of OPA requires that an accounting study of operations and financial condition be made. On inquiry it develops that the purpose of this study is to put OPA in a position to justify its decision that the industry earnings in 1944 were sufficiently close to the standards set for the industry to justify reflecting in 1945 prices increased costs of raw material and labor. The study has the further purpose of providing information that may serve as a guide in setting up pricing procedures for 1946 when and if they are needed.

The proposed accounting study will have no bearing on the 1945 prices; the fact is that these are nearly ready for release. It will have a bearing on

the continuing policies formulated in 1945, but applicable to 1946 and future years. There is no thought of delaying issuance of 1945 ceiling prices until results of the proposed study are known.

The study with a few exceptions is to be made of those canners whose records for 1941 and 1943 were studied by OPA accountants in the early part of 1944. At the present time there is no thought of making a detailed unit cost study such as was made at that time. The present intention is to secure only the results "profit wise" of 1944 operations. In most cases production records, balance sheets and profit and loss statements for that year only will be requested.

It should be pointed out that OPA in this study aims to separate the canning, freezing and other major departments of each company in the sample. It is particularly interested in relating

the invested capital separately to the several departments. Those canners who "can" only should find it comparatively easy to provide the 1944 information that OPA is seeking. Those who both "freeze and can," and where figures were used by OPA in the original freezing sample, may find it difficult to separate their two operations in respect to profit and investment. Moreover, they will be asked to furnish information for three years, 1940, 1941, and 1944. OPA officials insist there is no need for going into great detail in getting this information.

Several canners who received Mr. Rountree's letter, remembering the survey in early 1944, concluded that to cooperate with the OPA accountants will call for a large amount of time of their own accountants during their production season. The fact is that these canners who are engaged only in canning should find it very easy to supply the 1944 information requested provided, of course, they care to supply it. A canner who both cans and freezes may find it more difficult and may want to delay his survey until his active production season has come to an end. OPA plans to advise canners the definite date in advance of their auditors' arrival.

Oyster Hearing Postponed

Representatives of the Eastern oyster industry and Louisiana State officials conferred Monday with the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries committee preparatory to attending hearings held by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration on July 17 for the purpose of establishing standards of identity on raw and shucked oysters.

Representative Bland, chairman of the committee, appointed a special congressional committee to study the proposed standards and to work on the matter with the industry and the government agencies involved. Members include Representatives Peterson of Florida, Bonner of North Carolina, Dommengaux of Louisiana, Daughton of Virginia, Welsh of California, Canfield of New Jersey, Buck of New York, and Harter of Massachusetts.

Representatives of the industry, after hearing the government witnesses presented by the Food and Drug Administration at the hearing, asked that the hearing be postponed until after the war. When this motion was denied, they asked that the hearing be recessed for 30 days.

Food and Drug officials announced that the hearing will be resumed August 14 in Room 5545, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C.

James Named to Fisheries Post

Milton C. James will become assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior and assistant deputy coordinator of fisheries on August 31, succeeding Charles E. Jackson, who has resigned to become general manager of the newly organized National Fisheries Institute.

Mr. James has been a member of the staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor Bureau of Fisheries for 22 years and is at present chief of the Division of Game-Fish and Hatcheries and a coordination officer in the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries.

Alaska Salmon Pack Report

The following table, prepared from statistics compiled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shows the pack of Alaska canned salmon, by regions and varieties, through July 7, 1945, as compared with a similar period in 1944:

Districts	July 7, 1945	July 8, 1944
	Cases	Cases
Western Alaska.....	259,347	448,750
Central Alaska.....	363,768	252,391
Southeastern Alaska.....	33,458	83,438
Total.....	656,573	784,579

Species	July 7, 1945	July 8, 1944
	Cases	Cases
Red.....	477,716	640,171
Pink.....	95,071	25,228
Chum.....	56,075	93,248
Coho.....	1,187	801
King.....	20,524	25,131
Total.....	656,573	784,579

Alaska Fisheries Coordinator

Samuel J. Hutchinson, aquatic biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, has been appointed area coordinator of fisheries for Alaska. Mr. Hutchinson replaces Ralph A. Ferrandini, who resigned on June 30 to enter private employment. The Alaska area coordinator administers the Alaska Salmon Concentration Order which provides for the packing of salmon in a limited number of canneries throughout the territory. Mr. Hutchinson has been acting as area coordinator for Alaska since July 1.

Notice to Salmon Canners

The Commodity Credit Corporation advised salmon canners this week that the marking "SALMON" on tops and bottoms of sleeves for packing cases delivered to the army (see INFORMATION LETTER for June 9, page 8651) are considered special markings and are therefore subject to reimbursement by CCC at a rate not to exceed one-half

cent per sleeve so marked. Regional finance offices of the CCC Office of Supply have been notified to make the extra payment for the special marking and no further amendment of the contract between CCC and salmon canners is necessary, CCC said.

Salmon canners are also requested by CCC to follow the procedure outlined for mailing Notice of Tender of Delivery Forms PBO-423a and PBO-423b. CCC requests that an original and three copies of Form PBO-423a be mailed to Washington and two copies of Form PBO-423b to the Outport Representative in Seattle. A few canners have mailed the original and three copies of PBO-423b to Washington, and while these forms have been accepted, CCC asks that the procedure for mailing as indicated above be followed.

Certain Salmon Ceilings Lifted

The Office of Price Administration on Thursday announced that all ceiling prices have been lifted on fresh salmon taken in seines in any Alaskan waters and in gill-nets in the Taku and Stikine Rivers. This was accomplished by issuing Amendment 4 to Revised Maximum Price Regulation 288 which revokes Amendment 2 of the same pricing regulation and is retroactive to June 28.

Lemon Juice Offered for Sale

The Department of Agriculture is offering for sale to the original processor 1,367 cases of canned lemon juice. The juice, with pulp added, is packed twelve 32-ounce bottles to the case, was canned in California in 1942, and is stored in Cleveland, Ohio. The processor will have until 5 p.m., EWT, July 30, to purchase the lemon juice.

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no logical reason why they should be raised to subsistence levels in voluntary cases, and not necessarily raised in dispute cases, it said.

3. The WLB discontinues its practice of offsetting wage increases granted to correct substandards against the 15 per cent cost of living adjustment allowed under the Little Steel ceiling formula.

4. Congress give early consideration to amending the Fair Labor Standards Act with a view to raising the statutory minimum wage and broadening the coverage of the act.

The subcommittee is composed of Senators Pepper of Florida, La Follette of Wisconsin, Thomas of Utah, Tamm of Delaware, and Aiken of Vermont.

Price Controls Removed on Hot Pack Sour Cherries Sold to Government; Grower Support Prices Increased in Some Areas

Price controls will be removed from sales to the Government of hot-pack red sour cherries canned in 1945, the Office of Price Administration and the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced jointly on July 17. The action is being taken because of the substantially below average yield and probable short pack of red sour cherries in prospect this year, and since the total hot pack of canned red sour cherries is reserved for government purchase under War Food Order 133, it will have the effect of removing the total 1945 pack of this item from price control.

Increases in the average grower prices in certain States for red sour cherries for processing which OPA will use in the construction of processors' ceiling prices for sales of the 1945 pack, also were announced because of the short crop. A two cents per pound increase, or a revised price of 10½ cents per pound, was announced for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, North and South Dakota. For the State of Washington, and for Cootenai, Bonner, and Boundary counties in Idaho a price increase of one-quarter cent per pound was allowed, making the new price for these areas 8¼ cents per pound. Grower prices for this year's pack of processed red sour cherries were originally announced on June 26. (See INFORMATION LETTER for June 30, page 8081.)

To Buy Canned Condensed Soup

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it contemplates purchasing 21,350 cases of canned condensed soup (approximately 20 per cent oxtail, 20 per cent chicken noodle, and 10 per cent each of asparagus, tomato, vegetable, pea, Scotch broth, and chicken consomme with noodles), and that offers for the sale of this commodity may now be submitted. Delivery is required as early as possible, and not later than December 31, 1945.

All offers must be received by the Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., not later than 5 p.m., EWT, July 26.

Sugar Distribution Statistics

Distribution of sugar in the United States during the period from January to June, 1945, totaled 3,315,929 short tons, as compared with 3,203,653 short

tons during the corresponding period of 1944, according to a preliminary report issued July 14 by the Sugar Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Of this distribution, 213,443 short tons were delivered for export during the five-month period this year and 229,920 in a similar period in 1944. Sugar for export included deliveries for liberated areas and lend-lease as well as for military relief, but not for usage by U. S. expeditionary forces. The following table presents details of this distribution, expressed in short tons:

Classification	Jan.-June 1945 Tons	Jan.-June 1944 Tons
Refiners.....	2,792,239	2,628,403
Beet processors.....	488,300	508,527
Importers.....	204,381	220,466
Mainland cane mills.....	44,452	76,177
Total.....	3,529,372	3,433,573
For export.....	213,443	229,920
For U. S. consumption and expeditionary forces.....	3,315,929	3,203,653

Sugar stocks on June 30, 1945, as compared with June 30, 1944, in this preliminary report are shown in the following table. Refiners' raw includes 217,983 tons of sugar in the United States on June 30, 1945, and 546,113 on the same date in 1944, but not reported by refiners as in stocks on those dates:

Classification	1945 Tons	1944 Tons
Refiners' raw.....	217,983	546,113
Refiners' refined.....	142,376	265,001
Beet processors.....	288,295	371,118
Importers.....	22,086	83,268
Mainland cane mills.....	a	21,322
Total.....	1,286,822	

a Data not available.

New Grades for Frozen Foods

Tentative United States standards for grades of frozen brussels sprouts, frozen peaches, and frozen apricots have been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Copies of the new standards may be obtained by writing the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Office of Marketing Services, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Death of Michael S. Huffman

Michael S. Huffman, 62, brother of the late Oscar C. Huffman, president of Continental Can Company, died in a Washington hospital on July 18. Like his late brother, Mr. Huffman was a pioneer in the metal container industry and prior to his retirement from

business in 1939, had been in active contact with the canning and allied trades.

Early in his career he helped organize the Virginia Can Company at Buchanan and Roanoke and later aided in the expansion of this organization into the United States Can Company. The latter firm was absorbed in 1928 by Continental of which Mr. Huffman became business manager on the Pacific Coast, vice president and director, in that order. During his connection with Continental Mr. Huffman was vice president and general manager of a subsidiary firm, the Sociedad Industrial de Cuba at Havana.

Required Syrup Density Label Statement for 5 Canned Fruits

As announced in the INFORMATION LETTER for July 14, the Office of Price Administration, by Amendment 29 to Ration Order 3, has revised the maximum Brix cut-outs previously announced for various fruits. This action affects the syrup declaration on the labels of those products for which Food and Drug regulations have been issued when they are distributed in interstate commerce for civilian consumption.

The Food and Drug Administration has established standards of identity for five of the products for which maximum cut-outs were fixed by the OPA. These are apricots, cherries (sweet), fruit cocktail, peaches and pears. Food and Drug regulations require that the labels of these products carry a statement showing the density of the syrup in which they are packed.

For apricots (20.0°), fruit cocktail (17.0°), peaches other than Elbertas (18.0°), and pears (17.0°), the required label statement for the maximum Brix cut-outs specified is "In Light Syrup" or "Packed in Light Syrup." In the case of Elberta peaches (23.0°) and sweet cherries (24.0°), the required label statement is "In Heavy Syrup" or "Packed in Heavy Syrup."

Canned Fruit Juice Consumption

Civilian consumption of canned fruit juices for the 1945 calendar year is estimated at 10.4 pounds per capita, or about 3 per cent larger than the 1944 consumption, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Citrus juices will account for about four-fifths of the current year's civilian supplies. Civilian supplies of canned fruit juices for the pack year 1945-46 have not yet been estimated because complete data on non-civilian requirements are not available, USDA said.

Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, Fats, Oils, Sugar to Continue in Short Supply Throughout 1945, USDA Secretary Anderson States

Current food shortages will continue through 1945, according to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, but will, he said, mean an overall reduction of only 5 per cent from what he described as "last year's eating spree." For the months ahead, Mr. Anderson stated in a broadcast July 16 over the American Broadcasting Company network, meats, fats and oils, sugar, condensed and evaporated milk and canned fruits and vegetables will continue in short supply.

"The prospective civilian supply of canned fruits is about the same as for last year, but much below prewar levels because of large military requirements. Citrus juices, however, will be plentiful," Secretary Anderson stated. In asserting that canned vegetables supplies for civilians will continue short, the Secretary advised American civilians to increase their home canning of vegetables.

In addition he stated that rice and dry bean supplies will get shorter. Although the Secretary anticipates that the fruit crop as a whole will be good this year, apples will be much scarcer than last year. "Transportation difficulties," he cautioned, "may make it impossible to move to consumers all of our fresh fruit and vegetables. One bright spot is our milk supply. It is good and civilians will have a billion pounds more milk than last year. Except for wheat, potatoes, and most fresh vegetables, the 1945 crops will not be adequate for all of the demands that are being put on the food production of this country, he warned.

"The total demand for meat will continue far above our cattle supply for many months to come," he declared, "and when meat supplies do increase, the increase will come slowly," he said, adding, "if the war with Japan should end tomorrow we would still be short of fats and oils and sugar in 1946. The key to the food-fat situation is the output of lard, which will continue at a low level until next spring, when the slaughter of this year's somewhat larger fall pig crop begins."

Mr. Anderson pointed out several steps being taken by the Government to relieve these shortages but warned that not too much should be expected.

The Patman amendment to the price control law, for example, is expected to permit more effective use of packing house facilities under an expanded cattle slaughtering program, but will not be a solution to the meat problem in his opinion.

Discussing measures to improve the

distribution of food, Mr. Anderson said one purpose would be to choke off black markets which are draining food supplies from legitimate trade channels. The Secretary also asserted that government purchases of meat and butter have been scaled down in line with a general policy of "close and constant scrutiny of military and foreign demands for food." The nation wants to do all it can for the liberated areas abroad, Mr. Anderson stated, but at the same time "we must be as honest with them on this question of food as we intend to be with our own people and not lead them to expect more than we can supply."

Early Approval of FAO Seen

Establishment of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization is considered certain by the State Department in view of official approval from several allied governments, among them Great Britain, France, India, Australia, Holland, Mexico, China, and Canada, as well as several of the lesser powers. Formal action setting up this first of the United Nations organizations now awaits only the assent of the United States.

The State Department considers Senate approval of FAO a foregone conclusion. An overwhelming vote of approval was given by the House and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has voted the measure out favorably. If final Senate ratification occurs this summer, the State Department expects that the first formal meeting of FAO will be held in the fall.

C. Edwin Rife Dies

C. Edwin Rife, 54, head of the Sinclair-Scott Company, manufacturers of canning machinery, and widely known in the canning and canning supply fields, died recently in a Baltimore hospital following a week's illness. Although in poor health during recent months, Mr. Rife had continued to direct his business. He was a member of the Old Guard Society of the industry.

Small Motor Restriction Eased

The delivery of small commercial electric motors will be permitted hereafter without War Production Board authorization regardless of quantity, WPB announces.

Revocation of L-341, which became effective July 16, puts the delivery of these small motors on the basis of Pri-

ority Regulation 1 rather than allocation from WPB. It will allow manufacturers to ship unrated orders whenever possible. All rated orders, however, must be shipped first.

The motors affected are fractional horsepower alternating current motors of all sizes and types and single-phase alternating current motors from one to five horsepower, except specially designed airborne and shockproof shipboard types.

Screen Wire Supplies Limited

Civilians will be limited to approximately 30 per cent of their estimated wire screen requirements in the third quarter of this year, because of increased military demands, the Office of Civilian Requirements of the War Production Board has announced. This is a slight increase however, over the amount available in the first and second quarters.

Despite the severe domestic curtailment and the necessity of directing the larger part of available screen cloth to the malarial areas of the South, particularly to those subjected to recurring floods, OCR has set aside a substantial portion of its supply for "essential civilian users" for health reasons. Essential users, as defined in the metal screen cloth order, L-303, include such establishments as hospitals, health centers, nurses homes and institutions for mentally and physically sick, OCR said.

To reduce fly-borne contagion, milk and food processing plants, restaurants and retail stores, where milk or food is served or sold, and the kitchens, dining rooms and sick rooms of schools, colleges, welfare establishments and similar institutions are also given special treatment as "essential civilian users." These essential users are entitled to priorities assistance as explained in Order L-303 recently amended. Any additional information may be obtained from local WPB regional offices.

ICC Order Is Amended

The Interstate Commerce Commission has issued an amendment to Service Order 332, effective July 13, granting permission to any common carrier to "disregard the provisions of Service Order 332 insofar as it applies to peaches in any freight car, except a refrigerator car, when such peaches are to be consigned to canneries; also the return of the empty lug boxes from the canneries." The amendment lifts the restrictions placed on certain freight car uses on Saturdays and Sundays in California and Arizona.

CAN COATING PROPOSAL

WPB and Can Makers Study Plan to Use Thinner Tin Coatings for Food Containers

Proposals for thinner coatings of tin on steel plate to be used in making food cans were placed before the Can Manufacturers Industry Advisory Committee at a recent meeting, the War Production Board has announced.

The proposals are tentative and are to be reviewed by technical experts and industry committees. Since it is expected that the country will use 90,000 tons of tin this year, of which 25,000 tons will be drawn from a diminishing stockpile, every possible method of stretching tin supplies must be employed, WPB said. Can manufacturers were congratulated for their success in conserving tin. Estimates are that the industry will have saved 58,000 tons by the end of 1945.

The committee unanimously agreed that the abandonment of the Controlled Materials Allocation Plan by WPB would be satisfactory to the can manufacturing industry whenever it seems feasible to the agency to proceed with such action. WPB explained that, in any event, tin mills will continue to produce prime steel at the current high rate. This should result in an increased supply of cans for civilian purposes, it was explained.

It was pointed out by WPB that the need for conserving tin may delay the restoration of certain products to cans, under provisions of Order M-81, even when steel and facilities are available. The major products in this category are beer, spaghetti, dog-food, shortenings and vacuum-packed coffee. WPB also said it now appears that it may be impossible to raise the packing quotas of baked beans, hominy, motor oil and paints, because of the tin shortage.

Blackplate Usage Interpretation

Blackplate is chargeable to a packer's canning quota if it is used in combination with tinplate or terneplate in making the cans the packer uses, the War Production Board explained July 18. It is not chargeable to the quota if the cans are made wholly from blackplate, or if the blackplate is used in connection with some other material. These provisions are specified in Interpretation 1 to Conservation Order M-81, text of which follows:

(a) Under paragraph (g) of Order M-81, except in certain specified cases, any use of tinplate or terneplate cans must be charged to the packing quotas set forth in Schedule A. A person's "packing quota" as defined in para-

graph (b) (8) includes the quantity of blackplate which he is permitted to use. Hence, even though cans made only of blackplate under paragraph (c) need not be charged to any packing quotas in Schedule A, the blackplate in a can containing also tinplate or terneplate must be so charged along with the tinplate or terneplate.

(b) For example, in the case of the use of a can consisting of a blackplate end and a fibre body, the blackplate in such can is not chargeable to any quota. On the other hand, where the can consists of a blackplate end and a tinplate or terneplate body, the blackplate and the tinplate or terneplate are all chargeable to the applicable packing quota in Schedule A.

Canco Opens New Laboratory

Southern California's canning industry will be served by a new branch laboratory, opened at Los Angeles, July 20, by the American Can Company. Work on containers for canned fruits, juices, vegetables, olives and fish will be conducted at the new laboratory.

Experimental Glass Molds

Manufacturers of glass containers may make new glass molds for experimental purposes, provided they conform to certain requirements, the War Production Board has announced.

Calling attention to the fact that L-103, the Glass Container and Closure Simplification Order, freezes designs except in certain special cases, but that Priorities Regulation 23 permits the making of experimental models, WPB on July 16 issued an interpretation to L-103 to guide glass factories in this connection.

Experimental molds for non-standard bottles, glasses or jars may be made by a manufacturer, and since the machines in such factories are usually designed to carry a complete set of molds and cannot be satisfactorily operated unless supplied with a whole set, the manufacturer may make a complete set of molds for any one of his experimental models, WPB said. He may not, however, make more molds than are required for one machine, and he may not make a duplicate set of the molds at some other plant under his ownership.

WPB Lists Critical Materials

Nailed wooden boxes, glass, metal and molded closures, slack cooperage, fiber drums, cans, and steel drums and pails are all on the revised list of "critical" materials and products issued recently by the War Production Board.

PLANT, SOIL TREATMENTS

New York Station Engages in Field Studies to Determine Best Crop Production Method

Instead of formulating broad recommendations based on laboratory studies and on field experiments in one locality, the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva is carrying its work to the different regions where canning crops are grown and is, in effect, "asking" the plant and the soil to determine what treatments are best to assure successful crop production. It has been realized by the station staffs at Geneva and Ithaca that the information developed on the canning crops farm, purchased near Geneva some years ago to meet the need for field experiments involving fertilizer treatments, rotations, variety testing and the like, must be supplemented and broadened by field studies in other parts of the State, under conditions representing different types of soil, different varietal adaptation and farm practices.

Recently Charles G. Woodbury, Director of the Association's Raw Products Bureau, accompanied some of the experiment station staff members on their field inspection of outlying experimental tomato and pea fields. Of special significance at present is the field study of pea growing problems being carried on by a team of scientists who are studying simultaneously, in the same fields, the pea crop, pea diseases, plant nutrition and other soil factors. These studies are made on the farms of interested growers in widely diverse but representative areas. What is the effect of peas *after* peas on the hazard from plant diseases? Can the disease hazard be reduced by better meeting the plant's nutrient requirements through improved fertilizer practices? Some 75 or more pea fields are under intensive study this year by the Geneva scientists.

Of equal interest from the standpoint of tomato growers are the field plots laid out on the farms of leading tomato growers. Here are compared the behavior of plants grown under different conditions, with different starter solutions or with none, southern and locally grown plants, plants treated with different ratios and quantities of fertilizer and with fertilizers applied in different ways.

That the results in different tomato growing and on different soil types may not always agree with the results obtained at Geneva is not surprising. The important thing is that the station scientists are carrying their studies out into the State and giving direct and practical help to the growers.

President Recommends Single Surplus Property Administrator

President Truman favors a single administrator instead of the present 3-man authority at the head of the Surplus Property Board. In a special message to Congress on July 17 the President asked for an amendment to the Surplus Property Act of 1944 that would abolish the present 3-man board and substitute for it a single administrator. House leaders fought for this provision at the time the bill was being debated, but the Senate insisted upon multiple authority. The Senate bill provided for an eight-man board, later reduced to a three-man board in conference with the House.

In his message, the President praised the accomplishments of the Board but stated, however, "I am convinced that the effective performance of the vast administrative task remaining for the disposal of surplus property imperatively requires that authority to make decisions and responsibility for those decisions should be centralized in a single official."

A bill (H. R. 3851) to implement the President's recommendation was introduced in the House July 19 by Representative Colmer of Mississippi and referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Department. H. R. 3851 abolishes the present Board and sets up a surplus property administrator who would continue under the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion. He would be appointed for a two-year term at \$12,000 a year.

In view of the history of the measure, it is believed in Washington that should opposition to the President's recommendation develop it will center in the Senate, which always has leaned to the board type of administration of surplus property matters.

Assumption of most legislators was that if a single administrator is to be placed in charge it will be W. Stuart Symington, St. Louis business man and President Truman's only appointee on the Board. The other members—Lt. Col. Edward Heller of California and former Governor Robert A. Hurley of Connecticut, were appointed by the late President Roosevelt.

Pea Aphid Insecticides Studied

As an aid in the conservation of insecticides, studies have been made on the most effective strengths and rates of application on several of the more important insects affecting vegetable crops, according to the 1944 report of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. In field experiments

directed against the pea aphid it was found that with dust mixtures containing from 0.25 to 1.5 per cent of rotenone, the quantity of rotenone applied per acre rather than the strength of the mixture governed the percentage of control.

This relationship, however, did not prevail when the dust mixture was of lower rotenone content. For example, 60 pounds of a dust mixture containing 0.25 per cent of rotenone gave approximately the same degree of control as 20 pounds of a dust containing 0.75 per cent of rotenone; but 60 pounds of a 0.125 per cent rotenone mixture was not so effective as 20 pounds of a mixture containing 0.375 per cent of rotenone.

Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Stocks Held in Cold Storage

Stocks of frozen fruits in cold storage on July 1, 1945, totaled 164,257,000 pounds against 159,436,000 on June 1, 1945, and 129,494,000 pounds on July 1, 1944, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Frozen vegetable stocks on July 1, 1945, were 90,027,000 pounds as compared with 77,131,000 on June 1, 1945, and 114,455,000 on July 1, 1944. The following table furnishes details by commodities:

Commodities	July 1, 1944	June 1, 1945	July 1, 1945
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
FROZEN FRUITS			
Apples.....	10,065	39,700	36,898
Blackberries.....	3,390	3,975	4,689
Cherries.....	5,361	10,231	9,106
Young, Logan, Boyen.....	2,836	3,101	3,603
Raspberries.....	4,536	4,729	4,239
Strawberries.....	31,208	22,000	32,280
Grapes.....	4,926	6,858	6,092
Plums and prunes.....	3,627	5,037	4,215
Peaches.....	3,226	11,821	10,183
Fruit juices and purees.....	8,942	13,044	15,646
Apricots.....			3,672
Blueberries.....			1,544
All other fruits.....	51,377	38,920	32,081
Total.....	129,494	159,436	164,257
FROZEN VEGETABLES			
Asparagus.....	6,922	8,840	14,025
Beans, lima.....	2,135	3,985	3,906
Beans, snap.....	5,189	4,476	4,815
Broccoli.....	2,969	4,038	4,212
Cauliflower.....	1,237	1,649	1,632
Corn, sweet.....	3,610	6,646	4,880
Peas, green.....	23,575	8,521	16,890
Spinach.....	12,091	14,011	15,745
Brussels sprouts.....	1,709	1,668	1,682
Pumpkin and squash.....	2,315	4,598	4,938
Baked beans.....	2,547	1,266	1,993
Vegetable purees.....	419	527	694
All other vegetables.....	49,737	16,906	14,606
Total.....	114,455	77,131	90,027

Large Frozen Fruit Pack

The 1945 pack of commercially frozen fruits is expected to approach the record 1944 pack of 330 million pounds, which is about three times the 1935-39 average, the U. S. Department

of Agriculture states. A prospective record civilian per capita consumption of 2.2 pounds for 1945 compares with 1.9 in 1944 and the 0.7 pound average.

Effect of Walsh-Healey Order on Female Laborers under 18

Publicity has been given to an order signed by former Secretary of Labor Perkins on June 30, 1945, which revoked the exemption under the Walsh-Healey Act by which contractors in any industry were permitted to employ female workers under the age of 18 on government contracts if certain conditions were met. This revocation was recommended by the War Manpower Commission on the grounds that an adequate labor supply made the continuance of the exemption unnecessary.

To prevent any possible confusion between the revocation of the order referring to employment of female workers under 18 and the present order exempting contracts for certain canned and dehydrated foods from provisions of Section 1 of the Walsh-Healey Act, a brief explanation of these two orders will be helpful.

In April, 1942, the Secretary of Labor granted to any contractor in any industry an exemption from the requirements of Section 1(d) of the Walsh-Healey Act so as to permit these contractors to employ female workers under 18 upon compliance with certain conditions. Prior to this order the Secretary of Labor had granted a different and complete exemption from the provisions of Section 1 of the Walsh-Healey Act for all contracts for certain specified canned and dehydrated fruits and vegetables. This exemption for these particular products has been renewed from time to time and has just recently been extended to December 31, 1945 (see INFORMATION LETTER for June 30, 1945, p. 8675).

The revocation of the exemption order of April, 1942, referring only to female workers under 18 does not in any way modify the current exemption from the provisions of Section 1 for contracts for these specified canned and dehydrated fruits and vegetables. Thus, contracts for canned fruits which appear on this list will remain unaffected by the recent revocation while, in contrast, contracts for canned foods which are not listed under the current exemption will be subject to the prohibition against employment of female workers under 18.

Canners who wish to review this matter are referred to the discussion in the INFORMATION LETTER for May 30, 1942, on pages 7020 and 7021.

AVERAGE GROWER PRICES FOR CALIFORNIA PEARS FOR CANNING AND FREEZING ANNOUNCED BY USDA AND OPA

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and Office of Price Administration on July 20 announced jointly an average grower price of \$73 per ton for California pears for processing which will be used by OPA in the construction of processors' ceiling prices for the 1945 packs of canned and frozen pears. Prices for certain grades and districts based on the State average were also announced.

The 1945 average price is \$7 per ton less than the price for 1944, which was announced when a substantially below-average yield was in prospect. The price for 1944, therefore, was higher than it would have been for an average prospective yield. According to the July crop report, a production of 271,000 tons of California Bartlett pears, the chief variety used for canning, is in prospect for 1945. The estimate in July, 1944 was for 162,000 tons, compared with an average production during the 10-year period 1934-43 of 202,000 tons.

If the average price paid by a processor for each grade or district classification is less than the announced price for such grade or district classification, his ceiling prices for the processed pears will reflect this reduced raw-material cost.

In order to participate in the USDA guaranty purchase program for canned pears, announced March 20, canners must pay for each purchase of pears for canning not less than the applicable price named July 20 for the raw fruit. Of the canned pears required to be set aside by each processor for purchase by Government agencies under the provisions of WFO 22.9, 90 per cent of the supplies come under the USDA guaranty purchase program.

The following schedule represents the district and grade prices for "Prorate Grade" Bartlett pears and "fall and winter pears suitable for canning" which the processors should be able to pay under their 1945 ceiling price structure:

	Per ton
District 1	\$78.00
District 2	73.00
District 3	64.00
District 4	59.00

Prices for "Hill Grade" Bartlett pears in each district are 60 per cent of the respective prices for "Prorate Grade."

Price for "Second Grade" Bartlett pears in each district are 50 per cent of the respective prices for "Prorate Grade."

District 1 includes the counties of Sacramento, Yuba, Sutter, Mendocino, Lake, and

that part of Yolo county east of a straight line from the northwest corner of Sacramento county to the northeast corner of Solano county and that part of Solano county east of a straight line from the northeast corner of Solano county to the town of Rio Vista. District 2 includes the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, San Benito, Santa Cruz, San Mateo; that part of Solano county not included in District 1; that part of Sonoma county which includes the floor of the Sonoma Valley north of a line drawn east and west through Rama station to the post office at Kenwood and also the watershed and valley of the Russian River from Mendocino county line south to a line running east and west through the post office at Kealensburg; that part of Napa county north of a line drawn east and west intersecting Trantas road at the railway station of Union and all other counties of the State not mentioned.

District 3 includes Alameda county and that part of Napa county not included in district 2. District 4 includes Marin county and that part of Sonoma county not included in district 2.

The Bartlett pear prices specified in the schedule are at processors' customary receiving points and the grades referred to are those defined in marketing program for canned pears of the Pear Proration Zone No. 1.

For fall and winter pears the specified prices are also at the processors' customary receiving points and the grade referred to is that defined in the California State marketing order for canning fall and winter pears, dated August 2, 1943. The price is based upon the following conditions with respect to deliveries:

1. The applicable price for the entire quantity of a load of fall or winter pears delivered is the district price specified for "Fall and Winter Pears Suitable for Canning," if the delivery does not contain in excess of 10 per cent of pears of a quality below that grade.

2. A delivery containing in excess of 10 per cent of pears below this grade may be rejected.

USDA to Buy Canned Potatoes

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it contemplates purchasing an unnamed quantity of canned white potatoes and that offers to sell this commodity may now be submitted. Deliveries to be started as early as possible and completed by December 31, 1945.

The canner must be in a position to furnish all tin required to pack the quantity of potatoes covered by his contract and can expect no replacement by release until some future date not prior to October 15, 1945. No canner should use tin which may be required for the

packing of any perishable fruit or vegetable during 1945.

All offers must be received by the Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., not later than 5 p.m., EWT, July 27.

USDA to Buy Apple Butter

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on July 18 that it plans to purchase approximately 60,000 dozen No. 2 cans (307 x 400) of apple butter and that offers for the sale of this commodity may now be submitted. Immediate delivery is needed and preference may be given to earliest deliveries offered.

All offers must be received by the Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., not later than 5 p.m., EWT, July 30.

USDA Issues Slaughter Order

An order (WFO 139) making effective provisions under which non-federally inspected slaughterers may become certified, as provided by the Patman amendment to the Stabilization Act of 1942, has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The order is designed for full utilization of livestock slaughter facilities and for freer movement of meat in interstate commerce.

More Trucks Released in June

A total of 31,707 vehicles were released under the truck rationing program during June, 1945, as compared with 29,242 in May, the War Production Board has announced.

Civilian users received 7,023 light trucks, 13,240 medium trucks, 2,686 heavy trucks and 2,628 trailers, making a total of 25,580. Holders of government exemption permits for government-use and for exports received 773 light trucks, 3,748 medium trucks, 1,280 heavy trucks and 320 trailers, a total of 6,121.

Since the truck rationing program became effective March 9, 1942, a total of 409,954 vehicles of all types has been released. Of these, 375,360 went to civilian users and 124,594 to holders of exemption permits. Of the total 73,578 were light trucks, 293,517 medium trucks, 78,242 heavy trucks and 54,617 trailers.

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

Minimum Wages, Fish Pricing Changes,
Unemployment Relief among
Legislative Items

The House voted July 18 to recess from July 21 to October 8, but the Senate will remain in session for consideration of the United States Charter.

During the week, two bills were introduced calling for a 65-cent minimum wage and providing aid to the unemployed, respectively. The minimum wage bill, introduced by Senator Pepper, is described elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER.

The Senate on Thursday approved United States participation in the 44-nation Bretton Woods International monetary program, adopting only three minor committee changes. These were concurred in by the House, and thus America became the first major nation to approve this program for world economic collaboration. The Senate vote for approval was 61 to 16.

The Senate also on Thursday approved H. R. 3633, designed to give relief to small corporations from the excess profits tax and to improve the cash position of business to meet reconversion costs by speeding up tax refunds. (See last week's INFORMATION LETTER.) The Senate approved the bill after striking out the special carry-back provision benefiting reorganized railroads. The House approved the measure on Friday.

The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency reported favorably (S. 1204) introduced by Senator Brewster of Maine, which would require that fish be considered an Agricultural commodity for purposes of the Price Control Extension Act of 1945 and the Stabilization Act of 1942 as amended. The major purpose of the measure is to bring fish and fish products into the list of products upon which prior approval of the Secretary of Agriculture must be obtained before any price actions or regulations can be undertaken by the Office of Price Administration. The Senate voted to approve the bill on Friday.

Sections of the report of the Banking and Currency Committees follow:

Section 5(a) of the recently enacted public law (Public Law 108, 79th Cong.) extending the effective period of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, as amended, and the Stabilization Act of 1942, as amended, amended subsection (e) of Section 3 of the first-mentioned act to provide generally that no action should be taken under that act by the Price Administrator or any other person, with-

out prior written approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to any agricultural commodity or with respect to any regulation, order, price schedule, or other requirement applicable to any processor with respect to any food or feed product processed or manufactured in whole or substantial part from any agricultural commodity. The purpose of the bill now reported by the committee is to provide that fish and other sea food shall be deemed to be agricultural commodities for the purposes of subsection (e) of Section 3 of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, as amended. The effect of enactment of the bill would be to require generally that the approval in writing of the Secretary of Agriculture be obtained before any action is taken under the Emergency Price Control Act with respect to fish or any other sea food or with respect to any regulation, order, price schedule, or other requirement applicable to any processor with respect to any food or feed product processed or manufactured in whole or substantial part from fish or any other sea food.

This would provide the same treatment of this valuable food crop as is provided for all other foods. It would provide a regularity in the handling of food price problems in that fishery foods price changes would require approval in writing by the Secretary of Agriculture.

In a letter the Price Administrator, Chester Bowles, has indicated a doubt of the meaning of the present fishery provision of the Price Control Act. He has written:

The question has also arisen as to our interpretation of the fishery provision in the act. Careful study of the legislative history of Section 2(1) has led us to the conclusion that Congress intended by this section to provide additional specific protection to the fisherman and not to the processor. The provision covering fishery commodities closely parallels in language and intent the more complicated agricultural commodity provisions.

S. 1204 merely confirms the action of Congress which in the Revenue Act of 1943 defined fishery products as agricultural commodities. In this act (Public Law 235, 78th Cong.) Congress determined on the following definition:

The term "Agricultural Commodities" as used herein shall include but is not limited to:

C. (3) Animals such as cattle, hogs, poultry, and sheep, fish and other marine life and the products of live animals.

A new bill designed to aid unemployed was introduced July 17 by Senator Kilgore of West Virginia. The bill would supplement State employment funds with Federal money to bring payments to the jobless up to a maximum of \$25 a week and would ex-

tend the time of payments up to 26 weeks per year.

In introducing the bill, Senator Kilgore stated he had other Senate co-sponsors: Guffey, Pennsylvania; Murray, Montana; Thomas, Utah; and Pepper, Florida. The bill would:

Increase veterans' unemployment benefits from a flat \$20 a week to \$25 for single persons and \$30 for those with dependents. Veterans would need only 90 days' military service to qualify for a maximum of 52 weeks' payment. Under present law they would have to show nine and a half months' service to get the maximum.

Provide for the Government to pay travel allowances to workers referred to new jobs in another city by the United States Employment Service.

Extend benefits to Federal workers, maritime workers, agricultural processing workers and those employed in small firms not now covered by State laws.

Apply the Federal unemployment tax to employers of one or more, instead of eight or more, as is now the law.

Senate confirmation of Fred M. Vinson as Secretary of the Treasury was by unanimous vote on July 17. On the following day the Senate also approved the appointment of John W. Snyder, Arkansas and Missouri banker, to succeed Mr. Vinson as Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Mr. Vinson also preceded Mr. Snyder as Federal Loan Administrator, but according to present plans no successor to the Federal Loan post will be named until President Truman's return from Europe.

President Truman has signed the War Agencies appropriation bill, which was flown to him in Europe. This bill provides funds for the National War Labor Board and a number of other agencies. The INFORMATION LETTER erred last week in reporting that the Lea amendment had been stricken from this bill before its final passage. The amendment was approved and it provides that none of the funds appropriated for the National War Labor Board may be used in connection with investigations, orders, directives, etc., concerning bargaining units composed in whole of agricultural laborers.

The bill (H. R. 3771), increasing the lending power of the Export-Import Bank from \$700,000,000 to \$3,500,000,000 was passed by the Senate on Friday.

The work of the Special House Committee to Investigate Food Shortages will be continued throughout the summer recess of Congress, Chairman Stephen Pace of Georgia, reported.